WHAT IS THE ELEVATOR FIRE SERVICE SYSTEM?

Used to prevent fleeing occupants from using elevators and allows Fire Department to recall elevators to the lobby.

FDNY found that Fire Service override systems failed or malfunctioned during 1/3 of the major high rise incidents in the 1990's.

The fire service system allows the Fire Department to take the elevators out of the normal "Automatic Mode" and into a 'Manual Mode" used by Fire Department personnel. It is divided into 3 Phases.

Phase 1

- Begins when the Elevator Lobby Switch is utilized to recall the elevators to the lobby or the designated floor with the doors automatically opening.
- It overrides all signals and buttons in the building and the elevator car.
- It can be activated automatically if the elevator is tied into the buildings alarm system, if a elevator lobby or hoistway smoke alarm is activated.

Phase 2

- Refers to the controls in the Elevator Car.
- The lobby (Phase 1 switch can not override it)
- Avoid elevators that are not equipped with Phase 2 controls or is not working.

Phase 3

- It is tied into the buildings alarm system. It sends the cars to an alternative floor if the system indicates smoke or fire at the lobby level. Firefighters will have to go to the predesignated floor to take control of the cars.
- The cars location will be displayed above the elevator in the lobby.

Key Position Definitions

Newer Systems

Lobby Key Switch

ON: Activates Phase 1 and recall the cars to the lobby.
OFF: Returns cars to the normal automatic functions.
BYPASS: Found only on the lobby panel. Return elevators to normal automatic functions even if alarm system has not been reset.

Car Key Switch

ON: Activates Phase 2
OFF: Will return cars from Phase 2 to Phase 1 and will return cars to lobby. If lobby switch is “ON”.
HOLD: Found only in the cars. Used to keep the car on the floor you desire. It can be removed when it is in the hold position. If in the HOLD position the car will not move until the key is inserted. This feature should be used with caution because it prevents the car from being recalled.

Older Systems

Lobby Key Switch

FIREMENS SERVICE: Activates Phase 1 and recalls the cars to the lobby.
NORMAL: Will return cars from Phase 2 to Phase 1 and will return cars to lobby. If lobby switch is “ON”.
RESET: Found only on the lobby panel. Return elevators to normal automatic functions even if alarm system has not been reset.

TAKING CONTROL OF THE ELEVATORS

- Use Elevator Key to activate PHASE 1 and recall the cars to the lobby
- Remove the key leaving it in the ON position. (This may not be possible in older systems, if not possible remove the key and enter the car.
- Phase 1 will be reactivated once the key is inserted into the cars panel. Turn the key to ON. (PHASE 2)
- Press and hold the “DOOR CLOSE” button
- Press the “CALL CANCEL or RESET” button. This will cancel all requests from the other floors.
- Press the desired floor button.
- Once you have arrived, press and hold the “DOOR OPEN” button.
- To send the car back to the lobby, turn the key to “OFF”. If a designated Operator (1st Engineer)is assigned to the car, they can press the lobby button to return to the lobby.
- To hold the car at the desired floor turn key to “HOLD”.
- Note: If the car is in the “HOLD” position or if it is left in the “ON” position it will not be able to be recalled by the support units in the lobby.

ELEVATOR POLICY

- Do not use Elevators if fire is reported on the 5th floor or below.
- Take Elevator up to 5 floors below the reported fire floor.
- Check The hoistway for smoke
- Look for the “STAR OF LIFE”. It is tied to the buildings emergency power
- 1 dry chemical extinguisher minimum.
- Consider using banked elevators.
- Use Service Elevators if service lobbies are not involved in fire. Because of their size they can be used for men and equipment if safe.
- The Operator is the 1st in Engineer in full PPE with a radio. He stays with the Elevator.
- No more than 5 Firefighters and equipment at a time.
- Check the “FIREMENS SERVICE” mode by pressing the button of the floor above the one you entered on. See if it stops at that floor. If not, press the “EMERGENCY STOP” and consider Forcible Entry tool usage.